

2011-2012 Weekly Field Reports

Copacabana, King George Island

Volume 18
February 13, 2012

Science Report:

1. **Skuas:** The reproductive success of the skua populations in our area continues to decline. These late season failures suggest that food availability in the local marine environment continues to be low. Currently there are only ten brown skua territories with chicks, eight of which have survived to 48 days and had measurements taken to determine their sex, and are considered fledged.
2. **Whales:** Whale observations decreased significantly this week with only one sighting. An adult and a calf were seen exiting the bay on Tuesday (2/14).

Weather:

The weather from Monday (2/13) to Friday (2/17) was relatively calm, with intermittent winds blowing up to 15-20 mph out of the west, with light snow and temperatures of 34-36° F. Saturday (2/18) morning, the winds switched and began blowing 25-30 mph from the east, bringing in cold temperatures of 24-26° F with a wind chill factor of 8° F, heavy snow, and high surf. The storm lasted until Sunday (2/19) morning, when the wind and snow subsided, but the cold temperatures persisted.

Other Camp News:

This week we continued entering and archiving the data we collected over the season.

Feather samples from 20 gentoo penguin fledglings were collected on Monday (2/13) for Mike Polito's PhD project. All collections are now complete.

The 2011-12 Copa Field Team
Penny Chilton, Field Team Leader
Wayne Trivelpiece, PI
Brette Soucie
Matt Henschen

